

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT PLANNING TEAM VISIT
TO BULGARIA MAY 4-9, 1978

REF: A) STATE 072596, B) SOFIA 0821

1. SUBJECT TEAM COMPLETED ITS VISIT TO BULGARIA AS
SCHEDULED. VISIT INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH:
DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY -
FILIP ISHPEKOV; DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY - ANDREEVSKI;
DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION OF POULTRY - VARBANOV;
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY "BULGARPLOD" -
TCHAMOV; DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE TRUST "BULGARPLODEXPORT" -
ASSA; DIRECTOR OF THE STATE ECONOMIC SOCIETY "VINPROM" -
KINDECOV; DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN TRADE TRUST "VINIMPEX" -
GLAVANAKOV; DIRECTOR OF THE STATE ECONOMIC COOPERATION
"RODOPA" - SPASOV; DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN TRADE TRUST
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"RODOAIMPEX" - VALTCHEV; DIRECTOR OF THE STATE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION "CEREALS AND GRAIN INDUSTRY" - KHRISTOV;
DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN TRADE TRUST "HRANEXPORT" - ALEXIEV;
DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE - TOROMANOV;
DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL BREEDING -
HINKOVSKI.

2. ON APRIL 29 BULGARIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, GANCHO KRUSTEV, WAS REPLACED BY GRIGOR STOICHKOV. THE TEAM DID NOT MEET WITH STOICHKOV. (SEE REF B.)

3. HIGHLIGHT OF TEAM'S STAY IN BULGARIA WAS TWO-DAY TRIP THROUGH THE DISTRICTS OF SILISTRA, TOLBUKHIN AND VARNA WITH VISITS TO THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX "DRASTAR" AND THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX "GEORGI TRAIKOV". THE SILISTRA DISTRICT IS IN THE PROCESS OF CONVERTING SIX AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES (INCLUDING 32 COOPERATIVE FARMS) INTO ONE INDUSTRIAL/AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX USING A PLAN FORMULATED BY GLOBE SERVICES INTERNATIONAL, A CHICAGO BASED US COMPANY.

4. TEAM FOUND INTEREST IN TRANSFER OF US TECHNOLOGY; IN INCREASING BULGARIAN EXPORTS TO THE US; IN MFN STATUS, WITH RESULTING REDUCTION IN TARIFFS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CCC CREDIT, BUT LITTLE INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF US AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

5. TEAM COULD NOT DETECT A GREAT DESIRE ON THE PART OF ANY INDIVIDUAL FOR CONSUMMATION OF JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN USDA AND BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY. THIS MAY REFLECT UNCERTAINTY AMONG BULGARIAN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP DUE TO MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES JUST ONE WEEK BEFORE TEAM'S VISIT.

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6. COMMENT: TEAM WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED THROUGHOUT VISIT. AT SAME TIME, BULGARIANS CONTINUED SHOW RETICENCE IN PERMITTING DIRECT OBSERVATION OF ACTUAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN ACTION. HOWEVER, DISCUSSION WAS OPEN AND A DESIRE FOR CLOSER COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND BULGARIA WAS EXPRESSED DURING EVERY MEETING.
GARTHOFF

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